

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 14-17, 19-22, and 25-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended, and claims 4, 12-13, 18, and 23-24 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-10, 14-17, and 19-22, and 25-26 have been rejected over De in view Buchwalter et al. and Hiyamizu et al. This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claims 1 and 10, together with the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former dependent claim 24. Claim 1 has further been amended to remove the redundant subject matter noted in the instant Office Action. (Office Action, pg. 5). In view of the indicated allowability of claim 24, the applicants assert that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 14-17, 19- 21 and 25-26 are allowable in view the amendment and remarks pertaining to claim 1, from which they depend.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the same limitation as former dependent claim 24. Claim 10 has further been amended to remove the redundant subject matter noted in the instant Office Action. The applicants assert that this claim is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended to remove the redundant subject matter noted in the instant Office Action. The applicants assert that claim 11 remains allowable following this amendment.

Claim 22 is allowable in view the amendment and remarks pertaining to claim 10 from which it depends.

The applicants have made a novel and non-obvious contribution to the art of semiconductor fabrication technology and handling equipment. The claims at issue distinguish over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason, the Examiner does not agree that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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